

Message Text

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73

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

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R 130330Z JAN 75

FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2549

INFO AMCONSUL BRISBANE BY POUCH

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

AMCONSUL PERTH BY POUCH

AMCONSUL PORT MORESBY BY POUCH

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, AS

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIAN UNEMPLOYMENT HITS RECORD HIGH

1. IN FIGURES RELEASED JANUARY 12 BY MIN. LABOR CAMERON, NUMBER OF UNEMPLOYED IN AUSTRALIA REACHED SEASONALLY ADJUSTED FIGURE OF 240,804. THIS FIGURE IS 4.09 PERCENT OF WORK FORCE AND IS HIGHEST LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT IN OVER THIRTY YEARS.

2. ACTUAL NUMBER, INCLUDING SCHOOL LEAVERS, IN DECEMBER IS 266,998 AN INCREASE OF 76,000 OVER NOVEMBER FIGURES.

3. PRESS RELEASE WAS LEAD STORY IN ALL REPORTING MEDIA JANUARY 13, INCLUDING NEWS THAT CENTRAL GOVERNMENT PLANS TO INCREASE PUBLIC WORKS PROGRAM TO \$20 MILLION (AUST) A MONTH INSTEAD OF \$26 MILLION (AUST) A YEAR AS BUDGETED IN LAST FEDERAL SUBMISSION.

4. REGIONAL EMPLOYMENT DEVELOPMENT (RED) PLAN DEVELOPED DURING LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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1973-74 WITH PLANNING ASSISTANCE FROM US DOL OFFICIAL ROBERT

HALL, HAS NOT BEEN PROPERLY IMPLEMENTED AND CURRENTLY PROVIDES AN ESTIMATED 30,000 JOBS MOSTLY IN RURAL AREAS. RED PLAN ADDITIONALLY UNDER ATTACK BY VICTORIA STATE GOVERNMENT ON CONSTITUTIONAL GROUNDS.

5. COMMENT: NEW FIGURES FAR ABOVE PERCENTAGE INDICATED AS "FATAL TO GOVERNMENT" BY AUSTRALIAN COUNCIL OF TRADE UNIONS (ACTU) PRESIDENT ROBERT HAWKE IN CONFERENCE WITH AMBASSADOR GREEN SOME MONTHS AGO. HAWKE AND OTHER LABOR LEADERS SCHEDULED TO MEET WITH ACTING PRIME MINISTER CAIRNS JANUARY 13 TO CONSIDER STILL UNRESOLVED GENERAL MOTORS ANNOUNCED PLAN TO REDUCE WORK FORCE BY 5,000 WILL NOW SPEAK TO GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ON URGENT BASIS ABOUT NEW UNEMPLOYMENT CRISIS. LABATT OBSERVES MAJOR PARTIES STILL TOO POLARIZED TO BRING COMBINED TALENTS TO BEAR ON NATIONAL PROBLEMS. PROBABLY WILL PERMIT SITUATION TO REACH CRISIS PROPORTIONS. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR OFFICIALS TOLD LABATT WEEKS AGO THAT UNEMPLOYMENT WILL CONTINUE TO INCREASE UNTIL AT LEAST END OF SECOND QUARTER 1975 AND BEGINNIN THIRD QUARTER. PRESS RELEASE OF JANUARY 12 REVEALS UNIVERSALLY SICK INDUSTRIES; TEXTILES, CLOTHING AND LEATHER GOODS, CRIPPLED ALMOST TO POINT BEYOND RECEVERY. LABATT DOES NOT FORESEE GOA ANNOUNCING DRAMATIC ACTIONS IN NEXT FEW WEEKS, PROBABLY SAVING SOME "MIRACLE PLAN" FOR ANNOUNCEMENT AT LABOR PARTY BIENNIAL CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT TERRIGAL, NEW SOUTH WALES, STARTING FEBRUARY 3.
BRAND

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